(b) the State-wise number of such complaints received by Government wherein it has been stated that parents of martyrs have lost their financial support after losing their sons; and

(c) the concrete action taken by Government on such complaints?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) There have been complaints of this nature. As a result of these complaints, the different Record Offices of the Army recommended, division of Liberalised Family Pension/ex-*gratia,* etc., between parents and widows of the deceased soldiers. Consequently, Liberalised Family Pension, and/or other benefits have been divided between parents and the widows in 23 cases, in the recent past. The State-wise number of such cases is as under:

Andhra Pradesh	—	1
Gujarat	—	1
Haryana	—	2
Himachal Pradesh	—	1
Jammu and Kashmir	—	2
Maharashtra	—	1
Orissa	—	1
Punjab	—	1
Rajasthan	—	1
Uttar Pradesh	—	6
Uttaranchal	—	2
West Bengal	—	1

In addition, 3 cases pertain to pensioners residing in Nepal.

Casualties of Army Personnel in Accidents

2547 SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 army personnel were killed in accidents between December 19, 2001 to March 15, 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons for such heavy casualties; and

(c) the measures being taken by Government to avoid such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERN ANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The reasons behind such incidents arc being analyzed from time to time and suitable policy instructions/guidelines are issued to minimize such accidents.

Use of private trucks by MoD for transportation of its goods

2548. SHRI RAMAMUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Defence is using private trucks for transporting goods/arms/ammunition of the Ministry from one place to another; and

(b) if so, the number of trucks the Ministry, on an average is using per year for transporting its goods?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Different types of civil transport such as, trucks, light vehicles and buses are hired by the formatiorviinits of Defence Forces. Separate details of hiring trucks are maintained at the field formation and unifdepot level and are not available at the Ministry/Army Headquarters. However, the total amount spent on hiring of all types of civil transport, including trucks, during the last three years is as given below:

(Rs. in crores)

Financial Year		Amount
1999-2000 2000-2001	—	166.84
2001-2002 (Upto		151.10
February 2002)		116.02